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Fifty-third session
Items 20 (c) and 45 of the provisional agenda*

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Letter dated 10 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter by Mr. Alem Razm, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, dated 9 July 1998, which is addressed to you.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly under items 20 (c) and 45 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Dr. A. G. Ravan **Farhâdi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/53/150.

** Previously issued under the symbol S/1998/630

98-20352 (E) 130798

Annex

Letter dated 9 July 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, I would like to acknowledge your tireless endeavours for bringing peace to war-ravaged Afghanistan.

As articulately stated by Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan during his meeting with you in New York on 9 June 1998, my Government attaches great importance to the central role of the United Nations in the peace process in Afghanistan.

Consistent with this, taking a fervent interest in the peace-making activities of Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi and the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA), my Government has studied your report on Afghanistan of 19 June 1998 (A/52/957-S/1998/532). We fully agree with you on many of the elements contained in the report.

However, on the efforts of neighbouring Pakistan presumably aiming to return peace to Afghanistan, the observations by Pakistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, in an interview in the Egyptian paper *Al-Ahram* of 30 June 1998, clearly exhibit an inconsistent malicious trend on the part of the military policy in that country towards Afghanistan.

Replying to a question in the above-mentioned interview the Pakistani Minister for Foreign Affairs said, "both President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud belong to the Tajik minority, which constitutes 13 per cent of the population in Afghanistan. Mr. Karim Khalili, the leader of the Wahdat party belongs to the Hazars minority that forms 10 per cent and General Dostum belongs to the Uzbek minority, which constitutes 7 per cent of Afghanistan's population".

He further maintained that it is a fact that Pakistan, in the event of confronting India, "is in need of a strategic depth". "We always", Mr. Gohar Ayub admitted, "believe that presence of a friendly Government in Kabul would suffice in providing such a strategic depth for us". He further continued "that two Provinces of Pakistan, which are adjacent to Afghanistan, are populated by the Pashtuns, an ethnic group that is a major one in Pakistan. This fact reveals our responsibilities and priorities in Afghanistan", the Pakistani Minister for Foreign Affairs, himself an ethnic Pashtun, concluded.

For the sake of the record and to shed light on the misconception by Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan of Pakistan, I should like to take this opportunity to state that his need of inventing erroneous and grotesque statistical data on the composition of ethnic groups or percentages in Afghanistan and also on the percentage of Taliban-held territory stems from hegemonic designs. While his acclaimed notion, widely rejected by experts on Afghanistan, alludes to the misconception that the Taliban, in this case the Pashtuns, embody 60 per cent of the entire Afghan population, the reality remains that no ethnic group in Afghanistan comprises the majority and that no ethnic group in Afghanistan represents more than 37 per cent of the population.

The remarks of the Pakistani Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, grotesquely elaborate on the ethnic configuration in Afghanistan and, beyond that, present a caricature of the percentages of the actual statistics of the ethnic composition of the country, admittedly aimed at the incitement of racial hegemony and also of racial hatred among the multi-ethnic people of Afghanistan. In fact, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan intends to

prove that Pakistan has to bank on the Taliban to transform Afghanistan into a country of "strategic depth" serving Pakistan. The expressions indeed reveal the bitter reality that, in Pakistan today, a genuine State change of policy for peace towards Afghanistan remains a dashed hope for the ruling civilian Government.

Considering the statements by Mr. Ayub Khan irresponsible and menacing, I would like to reiterate that the Islamic State of Afghanistan remains convinced that these statements are not in line with the genuine aspirations of both the Government and of the people of Pakistan.

We firmly believe that exploring ways and means for building confidence and promoting mutual trust between the two fraternal countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan would rightfully serve the legitimate interests of both countries, regional stability and the realization of economic opportunities.

(*Signed*) Mohammad'Âlem **Razm**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Islamic State of Afghanistan

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Fifty-third session
Item 65 of the provisional agenda*
Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Note verbale dated 10 July 1998 from the Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General and, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 51/55 of 10 December 1996, has the honour to communicate herewith an annex containing the views of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia would be grateful if the present note and its annex would be circulated as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65 of the provisional agenda.

* A/53/150.

98-20453 (E) 150798

Annex

Views of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/55 of 10 December 1996, requested all States and relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States and decided to consider the subject at its fifty-third session.

2. Considering that the violent disintegration of States may threaten international peace and security, and affirming the need for the United Nations measures to help to prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and the economic and social advancement of all peoples, the General Assembly called upon all States, relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to undertake measures to help to prevent the violent disintegration of States.

3. The General Assembly, at the same time, affirmed the need for strict compliance with the principle of inviolability of international borders among States and with the principle of territorial integrity of any State.

4. The General Assembly stressed the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development.

5. It stressed the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among them, to prevent the violent disintegration of States and to promote international cooperation.

6. The General Assembly, mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter of the United Nations to refrain in their international relations from threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world, expressed in its resolution 51/55 its deep concern about the situations that may lead to a breach of international peace and that are still present in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them.

7. In the view of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the General Assembly's deep concern expressed in resolution 51/55 is as valid at present as it was in December 1996 when the resolution was adopted.

8. Resolution 51/55 was proposed by the delegation of the Republic of Macedonia and co-sponsored by the delegations of Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo (then Zaire), Denmark, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine and the United States of America.

9. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia considers that the development of the international relations and those among many States are burdened with problems which can

generate conflict situations that could quickly become serious threats to the maintenance of international peace and security and could endanger the territorial integrity of States.

10. At present, many instabilities in many parts of the world are of deep concern. The reasons for such situations are different. The United Nations in accordance with its Charter, has a duty to continuously undertake adequate political, economic and social measures aimed at preventing instability, facilitating a solution to the open questions among States and preventing unsatisfactory economic and social developments to become violent conflicts. The same should be done by other international and regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and others.

11. The United Nations and the above-mentioned organizations should be much more involved in the solution of the present conflict situations that are endangering the international security and the territorial integrity of States. Their activities should be aimed at a factual and thorough understanding of the developments in different parts of the world, aimed at the solution of conflicts by addressing their root causes. Timely preventive activities and actions by the international community is a precondition for successful prevention of conflict situations.

12. The instabilities in the region of the Republic of Macedonia , in south-eastern Europe, have unfortunately continued to be a fact of the present situation. A large number of countries of the region are undergoing a long and difficult period of social transformation. The war in the region and its consequences, accompanied by additional disturbances, such as sanctions and embargoes during that period, have caused an increase in already existing political, economic and social tensions. Such situations are grounds for conflict situations, which can easily spill over into neighbouring countries and can be reflected in international relations, which can result in disturbing the stability and worsening the security in the region and beyond.

13. Dangerous instabilities have generated advocates and efforts aimed at the creation of great States, which in fact is a political manoeuvre to camouflage other ideas and an endeavour to violently disintegrate the present States in the region.

14. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, within the framework of its possibilities, taking into account, in particular, the internal situation in the country and the external environment in which it has been pursuing social transition, acted fully in strict compliance with the principles of international law and the fundamental endeavours of the international community aimed at the maintenance of international peace and security. Following the basic principles of its foreign policy, the development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations in particular, it has endeavoured to further develop the relations with its neighbours in the region. The Government, taking into account the interdependence of the development, fully supports common efforts and activities of the countries in the region and beyond for creating stable conditions for development. In its view, without a stable external and internal environment, without peace, no development or prosperity is possible, nor is the maintenance of international peace and security.

15. To prevent a new war in south-eastern Europe and to prevent the violent disintegration of States in this region, the following is essential:

- respect for the territorial integrity of all States;
- compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders of all States;

- respect for the human rights and freedoms of all, regardless of race, sex, language or religion;
- relations among States to be developed in accordance with the principle of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;
- relations among the Balkan States to be normalized;
- all Balkan States to become members of the Euro-Atlantic integrations;
- the Dayton Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina to be implemented in full;
- success of the following initiatives is essential: the Pact on Stability in Europe, the Process of Stability and Good-neighbourliness in south-eastern Europe (the Royaumont initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the Central European Initiative, the Process on Good-Neighbourliness, Security, Stability and Cooperation in south-eastern Europe and other initiatives in favour of peace, security, cooperation and development.

16. The Government of the Republic of Macedonia considers that it is of paramount importance for the General Assembly to continue to insist on undertaking measures aimed at preventing the violent disintegration of States. The fifty-third session of the General Assembly should express deep concern at the present conflict situations in many parts of the world that could endanger international peace and security and international cooperation. It should request the Secretary-General to prepare, for its fifty-fifth session, a report on situations that can endanger the territorial integrity of States and recommendations aimed at prevention of the violent disintegration of States.

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Fifty-third session
Item 80 of the provisional agenda*
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Note verbale dated 10 July 1998 from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to advise that the Australian Government has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and would be grateful if the attached media release could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

* A/53/150.

98-20438 (E) 140798

Annex

Media release by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated 10 July 1998

Australia ratifies Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

I am pleased to announce that Australia ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 9 July 1998 (New York time).

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty bans all nuclear weapons test explosions and all other nuclear explosions for all time. It marks a watershed in international efforts to address the global threat posed by nuclear weapons proliferation and is an indispensable component of the international nuclear arms control regime.

Australia holds a long-standing and well-deserved reputation as a leading international player on arms control issues. The pivotal role we played in the negotiation and adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is a reflection of our commitment to the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. This regime is central to our national security.

The recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan highlight the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. One of the great achievements of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is to provide a codified international benchmark against which the actions of individual members of the international community in the area of nuclear testing can be judged. Countries which defy this code of behaviour, as India and Pakistan have done, know that they can expect to feel the full weight of international opprobrium.

The Australian Government strongly condemned India's and Pakistan's actions which are in flagrant defiance of international non-prolifereration norms and have serious implications for global and regional security. I call again on both India and Pakistan to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without conditions or further delay.

I signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on behalf of Australia on 24 September 1996. One hundred forty-nine countries have already signed the Treaty and fifteen, including two nuclear-weapon States, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, have ratified. Australia is one of the forty-four countries whose ratifications are necessary before the Treaty enters into force.

Australia is encouraging other countries, particularly those in our region, to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible so that the powerful international norm against testing, which the Treaty represents is made as strong as possible. Australia is also playing a leading role in helping to build the institutional fabric of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at its headquarters in Vienna. This includes developing the international monitoring system and the establishment or upgrading of key monitoring facilities on Australian territory.